



*Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

August 12, 2005

The United States acknowledges New Zealand's continued commitment to thwart terrorism and welcomes the progress outlined by Minister Goff this afternoon.

"New Zealand demonstrates a clear understanding of the importance of international cooperation in the areas of money laundering and terrorist financing and recognizes that it is our shared interests to work together to combat such criminal activities," said U.S. Chargé d'Affaires David Burnett.

New Zealand's continued technical and training assistance in the Pacific region is also deeply valued by the United States and other members of the international community.

"The United States enjoys working with New Zealand to assist other countries in the region and we look forward to continuing to do so," Mr. Burnett added.

The United States also welcomes the recent unanimous UN Security Council adoption of Resolution 1617, reaffirming and strengthening international sanctions on Al Qaeda, the Taliban, and their associates.

"The U.S. worked closely with other members of the Security Council in the drafting of the Resolution, and we look forward to deepening our partnership within the United Nations, with New Zealand, and with governments around the world to implement its provisions," said Mr. Burnett.

Resolution 1617 improves the international community's efforts to combat terrorism by more clearly identifying terrorists who are subject to UN sanctions, by endorsing an effective set of standards and practices for implementing the financial sanctions imposed on them, and by facilitating cooperation among various counter-terrorism committees and bodies. It also extends the mandate of the Analysis and Monitoring Team, which helps the Council oversee the implementation of these sanctions.

Resolution 1617 carries forward a consolidated list of terrorists tied to the Taliban, Osama bin Laden, and Al Qaeda. Inclusion on the list triggers international obligations upon all UN member countries, requiring them to freeze the assets and prevent the travel of listed individuals and to block the sale of arms and military equipment.